

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you all to our first Quarterly Briefing to Member States this year.

I am pleased to be joined here today by my colleagues and other senior United Nations officials.

This year, we mark the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 establishing the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as the 10th anniversary of our United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Tragically, this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the 10th anniversary of the Norway attacks, among many others across the globe, including against

Misogyny and sexual violence continue to be common features across the ideological spectrum among terrorist and violent extremist groups.

Cyber- and bio-security are now more relevant than ever.

Socioeconomic and political grievances exacerbated by the pandemic are being used by terrorists to spread propaganda and win supporters both online and offline.

We must therefore stay vigilant and united against terrorism.

Dear Colleagues,

In my remarks today, I will first highlight our important counter-terrorism efforts in 2020, and then share our key priorities for this year.

First, over the past year, we strengthened our cooperation with Member States, regional organizations, civil society organizations and UN partners.

With your support and contributions, my

rehabilitation and reintegration of their nationals from camps in Syria and Iraq through the UN Global Framework, given the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in these camps.

Fifth, 2020 was the first year when UNOCT fully implemented the gender mainstreaming guidance and the gender marker. 21 out of 23 programmes/projects adopted in 2020 include different levels of gender considerations.

And lastly, UNOCT has made important progress in transitioning to field presences that ensure impactful and cost-effective programme delivery in closer proximity to beneficiaries.

Together with the State of Qatar, we launched in December the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism as a UNOCT Programme Office in Doha.

We also signed an agreement with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar in November, establishing the UNOCT Programme Office in Doha on parliamentary engagement in preventing and countering terrorism.

In September, we signed the agreements to establish a Programme Office in Rabat as a state-of-the-art training hub for the development and delivery of tailored counter-terrorism policing and border security management training first of all for the Sahel region.

We are also progressing well in establishing our Programme Office in Kenya. Last but not least. I would like to report to you that UNOCT Programme Office in Budapest designed for implementation of the Countering Terrorist Travel program is now fully operational.

Let me thank you for your support and cooperation. I am sure that the UNOCT Programme Office in Budapest designed for implementation of the Countering Terrorist Travel program is now fully operational.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank our donors, in particular, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, whose generous contributions funded 77 per cent of the Office's budget last year; as well as the European Union and the Netherlands, as major contributors of flagship UNOCT project activities.

We are also grateful to our two new donors, Hungary and Portugal, as well as our donors that strengthened their commitment to our Office through new pledges in 2020, namely Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United States, the European Union.

My Office remains fully committed to working closely with all of you as we embark on another important year for global counter-terrorism efforts.

Before proceeding with our discussion, I would like to show you a short video with key highlights of our work in 2020.

Thank you.